



# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

PO Box 346

Bethel, AK 99559



Emergency Special Action No.: 3-KS-01-22 thru 3-KS-05-22 (rescinding)

Issued at: Bethel, Alaska July 19, 2022

Effective Date: July 21, 2022 12:01 a.m.

## Federal Public Waters of the Kuskokwim River: Subsistence Fishing Announcement

Pursuant to authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board, the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager, as In-Season Manager, hereby announces that all federal protections issued under Emergency Special Action (ESA) during the 2022 salmon season will be rescinded **starting at 12:01 am on July 21, 2022**. This includes ESA 3-KS-01-22, issued May 02, 2022, which closed certain waters within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (YDNWR) to the harvest of salmon and certain fishing methods in order to ensure the continued viability of, and subsistence use of Chinook and Chum Salmon. The rescinding also includes ESA 3-KS-02-22 announced on June 18, 2022, and ESA 3-KS-03-22 announced on June 27<sup>th</sup> 2022. ESA 3-KS-04-22 offered rod and reel fishing in the Aniak Closed Area (Aniak Box), but that area will revert to Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) regulations. The last ESA (3-KS-05-22) was issued July 7<sup>th</sup> for fishing opportunities on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and that has expired and will be rescinded.

On July 19, 2021, at 10 am, the Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission (KRITFC) met with the Yukon Delta NWR staff to discuss next steps in salmon management on the Kuskokwim River. The YDNWR staff and KRITFC members agreed that due to a lack of fishing pressure and the estimated passage of approximately 90% of the Chum Salmon run (in the lower river), it is appropriate to relinquish Chum Salmon protections.

We will continue to monitor the Chum and Coho Salmon runs to ensure enough protection is in place to conserve both species within the YDNWR and upriver of the Refuge. All residents along the Kuskokwim River should visit <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main> during the remainder of the salmon season to be aware of further fishing regulation changes.

Users can also access up-to-date information on any future federal conservation measures by calling 907-543-1008 or visiting the Refuge [Facebook](#) page or [www.fws.gov/refuge/yukon\\_delta/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/yukon_delta/).

By delegation from the Federal Subsistence Board:

Boyd Blihovde, Refuge Manager  
Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

### DISTRIBUTION:

Anthony Christianson, Chair, Federal Subsistence Board  
Sara Boario, Alaska Regional Director, USFWS



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Mike Williams Sr., Chair, Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission  
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